


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment adds the requisite paragraph to the specification claiming the benefit of the filing date of the parent application, which is still pending.

This Preliminary Amendment also amends the claims before the calculation of the filing fee by canceling the claims of the original application and replacing them with a new slate of claims, namely Claim 28 to Claim 69, with Claims 28, 38, 45, 50 and 58 being independent claims.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for substantive examination and that no new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachment "A"

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-27 (Canceled)

28. (New) An integral ceramic filter assembly produced by adhering with a ceramic seal layer outer surfaces of a plurality of filters, each of which is formed from a sintered porous ceramic body, wherein the seal layer has a thickness of 0.3 to 3 mm and a thermal conductance of 0.1 to 10 W/mk.

29. (New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 28, wherein the filter has an average porosity of 30 to 70%.

30. (New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 28, wherein the filter has a thermal conductance of 20 to 80 W/mk.

31. (New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 28, wherein the filter has a thermal conductance of 20 to 80 W/mk and an average porosity of 30 to 70%.

32. (New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 28, wherein the seal layer includes 3 to 80 wt% of inorganic grains.

33. (New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 28, wherein the assembly is a diesel particulate filter.

- 34.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 28, wherein the filters are offset from one another in a direction perpendicular to a filter axial direction.
- 35.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 28, wherein the filter has a plurality of cells, and each cell has an outer surface which carries at least one oxide catalyst selected from a platinum group element, other metal elements and oxides of these metal elements.
- 36.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 28, wherein the assembly has an outer form in a round cross-section or oval cross-section.
- 37.(New) An exhaust gas purification apparatus having the ceramic filter assembly according to claim 28 arranged in a casing that is located in an exhaust gas passage of an internal combustion engine.
- 38.(New) An integral ceramic filter assembly produced by adhering with a ceramic seal layer outer surfaces of a plurality of elongated honeycomb filters, each of which is formed from a sintered porous ceramic body, wherein a ratio L/S between a filter length L in a flow direction of a processed fluid and a filter cross-section S in a direction perpendicular to the flow direction is 0.06 to 0.75 mm/mm².
- 39.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 38, wherein the filter length is 167 to 300 mm.
- 40.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 38, wherein the assembly is a diesel particulate filter.

41.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 38, wherein the filter is formed from a sintered porous silicon carbide body.

42.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 38, wherein the filters are offset from one another in a direction perpendicular to a filter axial direction.

43.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 38, wherein the filter has a plurality of cells, and each cell has an outer surface which carries at least one oxide catalyst selected from a platinum group element, other metal elements and oxides of these metal elements.

44.(New) An exhaust gas purification apparatus having the ceramic filter assembly according to claim 38 arranged in a casing that is located in an exhaust gas passage of an internal combustion engine.

45.(New) An elongated honeycomb filter formed from a sintered porous ceramic body, the honeycomb filter having a ratio L/S between a filter length L in a flow direction of a processed fluid and a filter cross-section S in a direction perpendicular to the flow direction is 0.06 to 0.75 mm/mm².

46.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 45, wherein the filter has a plurality of cells, and each cell has an outer surface which carries at least one oxide catalyst selected from a platinum group element, other metal elements and oxides of these metal elements.

47.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 45,

wherein the form of the filter is a triangular pole-like shape or a hexagonal pole-like shape.

48.(New) The ceramic filter assembly according to claim 45, wherein the filter length is 167 to 300 mm.

49.(New) An exhaust gas purification apparatus having the ceramic filter assembly according to claim 45 arranged in a casing that is located in an exhaust gas passage of an internal combustion engine.

50.(New) A honeycomb filter formed from a sintered porous ceramic body, wherein the average pore diameter of the honeycomb filter is 5 to 15 μ m, the average porosity is 30 to 50%, and the honeycomb filter has 20% or more of through pores.

51.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 50 comprising a plurality of cells including a first cell having a first end surface sealed by a sealing body and a second cell adjacent to the first cell, the second cell having a second end surface that is opposite to the first surface, the second end surface being sealed by a sealing body, wherein the cell number per square inch is 120 or more, and the thickness of a cell wall defining the cells is 0.46mm or less.

52. (New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 50, wherein the sintered porous ceramic body is one selected from silicon carbide, silicon nitride, sialon, alumina, cordierite and mullite.

53.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 50, wherein the filter has a plurality of cells, and each cell has an outer

surface which carries at least one oxide catalyst selected from a platinum group element, other metal elements and oxides of these metal elements.

54.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 50, wherein the sintered porous ceramic body is a silicon carbide, and the amount of impurities of the silicon carbide is 5 wt% or less.

55.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 50, wherein the impurities of the silicon carbide is Al, Fe, O or free C.

56.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 50, wherein the total volume of the filter is 1/4 to 2 times the total displacement of an internal combustion engine.

57.(New) An exhaust gas purification apparatus having the honeycomb filter according to claim 50 arranged in a casing that is located in an exhaust gas passage of an internal combustion engine.

58.(New) A honeycomb filter having a plurality of cells defined by a cell wall and purifying fluid including particulates with the cell wall, wherein the specific surface area of grains forming the cell wall is 0.1 m²/g or more.

59.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58, wherein the cell wall is formed from a sintered silicon carbide body.

60.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58, wherein the cell wall is formed from a porous body.

61.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58, wherein the

filter has a plurality of cells, and each cell has an outer surface which carries at least one oxide catalyst selected from a platinum group element, other metal elements and oxides of these metal elements.

62.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58, wherein the average pore diameter of the honeycomb filter is 1 to 50 μ m.

63.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58, wherein the average porosity of the honeycomb filter is 30 to 70%.

64.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58, wherein the cell density is 120/inch² or greater.

65.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58 , wherein the thickness of the cell wall is 0.46mm or less.

66.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58, wherein the honeycomb filter has 20% or more of through pores.

67.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58, wherein a specific surface area of the grains forming the cell wall of the honeycomb filter is 0.1 to 1.0 m²/g.

68.(New) The honeycomb filter according to claim 58, wherein a specific surface area of the grains forming the cell wall of the honeycomb filter is 0.3 to 0.8 m²/g.

69.(New) An exhaust gas purification apparatus having the honeycomb filter according to claim 58 arranged in a casing that is located in an exhaust gas passage of an internal combustion engine.